

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims would replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method performed by an intermediate entity for transparently handling communications between a client and a destination, comprising:

- establishing communication sessions between the client and the intermediate entity and the destination and the intermediate entity;
- receiving a first packet from the client including data and a client address corresponding to the client;
- reading a destination address from a destination field of the first packet; and
- preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:
 - storing the client address in the source field;
 - storing the destination address in ~~[[a]]~~ the temporary field; and
 - storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field.

Claims 8-16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) An intermediate entity for transparently handling communications between a client and a destination, comprising:

means for establishing communication sessions between the client and the intermediate entity and the destination and the intermediate entity;

means for receiving a first packet from the client including data and a client address corresponding to the client;

means for reading a destination address from a destination field of the first packet; and

means for preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:

storing the client address in the source field;

storing the destination address in [[a]] the temporary field; and

storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field.

Claims 18-26 (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) An intermediate entity for transparently handling communications between a client and a destination, comprising:

a communication session establishing element for establishing communication sessions between the client and the intermediate entity and the destination and the intermediate entity;

a packet receiving element for receiving a first packet from the client including data and a client address corresponding to the client;

a reading element for reading a destination address from a destination field of the first packet; and

an intermediate communication preparation element for preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:

storing the client address in the source field;

storing the destination address in ~~[[a]]~~ the temporary field; and

storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field.

Claims 28-36 (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for transparently handling communications between a client and a destination, the computer usable medium comprising:

a module for establishing communication sessions between the client and the intermediate entity and the destination and the intermediate entity;

a module for receiving a first packet from the client including data and a client address corresponding to the client;

a module for reading a destination address from a destination field of the first packet; and

a module for preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:

storing the client address in the source field;
storing the destination address in [[a]] the temporary field; and
storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field.

Claims 38-40 (Canceled).

41. (Previously Presented) A method for transparently handling communications between a client and a destination, comprising:

- sending a client communication addressed to a destination from a client to an intermediate entity;
- analyzing the client communication;
- reading a destination address from a destination field of the client communication;
- preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:
 - storing a client address in the source field;
 - storing the destination address in the temporary field; and
 - storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field;
- transmitting a connection setup communication to the destination for establishing a connection between the destination and the intermediate entity;
- receiving a connection setup acknowledgement communication from the destination; and
- associating the destination address with the client address.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further including:
forwarding the client communication to the destination if the destination is a first type of destination; and
performing the steps of preparing an intermediate communication and transmitting a connection setup communication if the destination is a second type of destination.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further including:
sending to the client a connection setup acknowledgment having the destination address in the source field in response to the connection setup acknowledgment received from the destination.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein associating includes:
storing information associating the client address with the destination address.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, further including:
creating a communication to the destination using the information associating the client and the destination addresses in response to a request from the client.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, further including:
creating a communication to the client using the information associating the client
and the destination addresses in response to a communication from the destination.

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further including:
determining whether the client communication is a connection setup request; and
storing the intermediate entity address in a destination field in response to a
determination that the client communication is not a connection setup request.

49. (Original) The method of claim 41, further including:
performing a service at the intermediate entity in response to a service request
from the client.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further including:
preparing a communication to the client based on performance of the service and
including the destination address in the source field.

51. (Previously Presented) A system for transparently handling
communications between a client and a destination, comprising:
means for sending a client communication addressed to a destination from a
client to an intermediate entity;

means for analyzing the client communication;

means for reading a destination address from a destination field of the client communication;

means for preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:

storing a client address in the source field;

storing the destination address in the temporary field; and

storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field;

means for transmitting a connection setup communication to the destination for establishing a connection between the destination and the intermediate entity;

means for receiving a connection setup acknowledgement communication from the destination; and

means for associating the destination address with the client address.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, further comprising:

means for forwarding the client communication to the destination if the destination is a first type of destination; and

wherein the means for preparing an intermediate communication and transmitting a connection setup communication perform said functions if the destination is a second type of destination.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, further comprising:

means for sending to the client a connection setup acknowledgment having the destination address in the source field in response to the connection setup acknowledgment received from the destination.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the means for associating comprises:

means for storing information associating the client address with the destination address.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 54, further comprising:

means for creating a communication to the destination using the information associating the client and the destination addresses in response to a request from the client.

56. (Previously Presented) The system entity of claim 54, further comprising:

means for creating a communication to the client using the information associating the client and the destination addresses in response to a communication from the destination.

57. (Cancelled).

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, further comprising:

means for determining whether the client communication is a connection setup request; and

means for storing the intermediate entity address in a destination field in response to a determination that the client communication is not a connection setup request.

59. (Original) The system of claim 51, further comprising:

means for performing a service at the intermediate entity in response to receiving a service request from the client.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 59, further comprising:

means for preparing a communication to the client based on performance of the service and including the destination address in the source field.

61. (Previously Presented) A system for transparently handling communications between a client and a destination, comprising:

a sending element for sending a client communication addressed to a destination from a client to an intermediate entity;

an analyzing element for analyzing the client communication;

a reading element for reading a destination address from a destination field of the client communication;

an intermediate communication preparation element for preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:

storing a client address in the source field;

storing the destination address in the temporary field; and

storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field;

a transmitting element for transmitting a connection setup communication to the destination for establishing a connection between the destination and the intermediate entity;

a receiving element for receiving a connection setup acknowledgement communication from the destination; and

an associating element for associating the destination address with the client address.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising:

a forwarding element for forwarding the client communication to the destination if the destination is a first type of destination; and

wherein the intermediate communication preparation element and the transmitting element perform said functions if the destination is a second type of destination.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising:

a client connection setup acknowledgment element for sending to the client a connection setup acknowledgment having the destination address in the source field in response to the connection setup acknowledgment received from the destination.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the associating element comprises:

a storing element for storing information associating the client address with the destination address.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, further comprising:

a destination communication creating element for creating a communication to the destination using the information associating the client and the destination addresses in response to a request from the client.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, further comprising:

a client communication creation element for creating a communication to the client using the information associating the client and the destination addresses in response to a communication from the destination.

67. (Cancelled).

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61, further comprising:
a connection setup determining element for determining whether the client communication is a connection setup request; and
a storing element for storing the intermediate entity address in a destination field in response to a determination that the client communication is not a connection setup request .

69. (Original) The system of claim 61, further comprising:
a service element for performing a service at the intermediate entity in response to a service request from the client.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69, further comprising:
a client communication preparation element for preparing a communication to the client based on performance of the service and including the destination address in the source field.

71. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for transparently handling communications between a client and a destination, the computer usable medium comprising:
a module for sending a client communication addressed to a destination from a client to an intermediate entity;
a module for analyzing the client communication;

a module for reading a destination address from a destination field of the client communication;

a module for preparing an intermediate communication having a source field, a destination field, and a temporary field, the preparing including:

storing a client address in the source field;

storing the destination address in the temporary field; and

storing an intermediate destination address in the destination field;

a module for transmitting a connection setup communication to the destination for establishing a connection between the destination and the intermediate entity;

a module for receiving a connection setup acknowledgement communication from the destination; and

a module for associating the destination address with the client address.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 71, further comprising:

a module for forwarding the client communication to the destination if the destination is a first type of destination; and

wherein the modules for preparing an intermediate communication and transmitting a connection setup communication perform said functions if the destination is a second type of destination.

73. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 71, further comprising:

a module for sending to the client a connection setup acknowledgment having the destination address in the source field in response to the connection setup acknowledgment received from the destination.

74. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 71, wherein the module for associating comprises:

a module for storing information associating the client address with the destination address.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 74, further comprising:

a module for creating a communication to the destination using the information associating the client and the destination addresses in response to a request from the client.

76. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 74, further comprising:

a module for creating a communication to the client using the information associating the client and the destination addresses in response to a communication from the destination.

77. (Cancelled).

78. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 71,
further comprising:

a module for determining whether the client communication is a connection setup
request; and

a module for storing the intermediate entity address in a destination field in
response to a determination that the client communication is not a connection setup
request.

79. (Original) The computer program product of claim 71, further comprising:

a module for performing a service at the intermediate entity in response to a
service request from the client.

80. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 79,
further comprising:

a module for preparing a communication to the client based on performance of
the service and including the destination address in the source field.